

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE  
NASHVILLE DIVISION

DORSEY W. McCULLOUGH, )  
 )  
 Plaintiff )  
 )  
 v. ) NO. 3:06-0732  
 )  
 AMERICAN GENERAL INSURANCE )  
 COMPANY, AFRICAN METHODIST )  
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC., )  
 JEROME V. HARRIS, PHILLIP )  
 ROBERT COUSIN, SR., JOHN R. )  
 BRYANT, and BOOKER T. GUYTON, )  
 )  
 Defendants )

**TO: The Honorable Thomas A. Wiseman, Jr.**

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

For the reasons stated below, the Magistrate Judge recommends that the case against Phillip Robert Cousin, Sr. ("Mr. Cousin") be dismissed without prejudice for failure to obtain service of process under Rule 4(m).

**I. Background**

This case was originally filed on July 27, 2006. The Plaintiff's counsel has had difficulty in obtaining service of process and in providing the Court with proof of service of process ever since. The Magistrate Judge had to continue the initial case management conference of September 15, 2006, because of a failure to obtain service of process (Docket Entry 10) and again on October 24, 2006 (Docket Entry 17).

At the case management conference finally held on

November 28, 2006, Plaintiff's counsel advised that he did not have service of process on Mr. Cousin and he was directed to obtain service of process on Mr. Cousin on or before December 11, 2006, or the Magistrate Judge would recommend dismissal (Docket Entry 36). As of the date of the filing of this Report and Recommendation, Plaintiff has failed to obtain service of process on Mr. Cousin.

## **II. Legal Discussion**

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m) provides:

If service of the summons and complaint is not made upon the defendant within 120 days after the filing of the complaint, the Court upon motion or on its own initiative, after notice to the plaintiff, shall dismiss the action without prejudice as to that defendant or direct that service be affected within a specified time; provided that if the plaintiff shows good cause for the failure, the Court shall extend the time for service for an appropriate period.

In this case, the Plaintiff has previously been warned by the Court that he must obtain service of process within 120 days. At the present time, it has been over 145 days and no service of process has been made on Mr. Cousin.

## **III. Recommendation**

As stated above, the Magistrate Judge recommends that the complaint as to Mr. Cousin be dismissed without prejudice for failure to obtain service of process.

Under Rule 72(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, any party has ten (10) days from receipt of this Report and Recommendation in which to file any written objections to this

Recommendation, with the District Court. Any party opposing said objections shall have ten (10) days from receipt of any objections filed in this Report in which to file any responses to said objections. Failure to file specific objections within ten (10) days of receipt of this Report and Recommendation can constitute a waiver of further appeal of this Recommendation. *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 106 S.Ct. 466, 88 L.Ed.2d 435 (1985), *reh'g denied*, 474 U.S. 1111 (1986).

It is so ORDERED.

/s/ Joe B. Brown  
JOE B. BROWN  
United States Magistrate Judge